

To: Allen, Laura[Allen.Laura@epa.gov]
Cc: Stalcup, Dana[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]; McKean, Deborah[mckean.deborah@epa.gov]; StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Irizarry, Gilberto[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov]; Woodyard, Josh[Woodyard.Joshua@epa.gov]; Smith, Terry[Smith.Terry@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]
From: Ostrander, David
Sent: Thur 9/17/2015 1:28:01 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd:

good with this

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 16, 2015, at 7:05 PM, Allen, Laura <Allen.Laura@epa.gov> wrote:

Hey folks- we are going to go with this response:

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine, water quality samples were collected from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation at numerous intervals beginning on Aug. 7, 2015. Based on consultation with affected communities, the results were compared against Recreational Screening Levels and then posted publicly.

The EPA has closely coordinated with our federal partners and with officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes and the Navajo Nation to keep them apprised of water and sediment sampling results, which are routinely posted on our website. All results were made available on EPA's website as soon as they were validated and reviewed. One of our foremost priorities is to keep the public informed about the impacts from the Gold King Mine release and our response activities.

On Sep 16, 2015, at 8:40 PM, Allen, Laura <Allen.Laura@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Dana.

All- how about something like the response below?

David O.- let us know if you have comments/edits. See full inquiry from AP below.

Response:

One of our foremost priorities is to keep the public informed about the impacts from the Gold King Mine release and our response activities. The agency has made all data accessible on our website once it is validated. The EPA has closely coordinated with our federal partners and with officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes and the Navajo Nation to keep them apprised of water and sediment sampling results, which are routinely posted on our website. These results indicate that water and sediment have returned to pre-event conditions and supported local and state decision-makers as they made the decision to lift water restrictions along the Animas and San Juan Rivers on August 14 and August 15.

On Sep 16, 2015, at 8:08 PM, Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov> wrote:

Looping in OEM folks

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 16, 2015, at 8:07 PM, McKean, Deborah <mckean.deborah@epa.gov> wrote:

To my knowledge, we provided all data once it was validated. For more info I would recommend contacting David Ostrander, first Area Commander.

Deborah McKean, Ph.D.
Chief, Technical Assistance
U.S. EPA, Region 8
Denver, CO 80202
Cell: 303-579-4371
Office: 303-312-6178

On Sep 16, 2015, at 5:31 PM, StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov> wrote:

Any thoughts on a response - or who might help on this?

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brown, Matthew" <MBrown@ap.org>

Date: September 16, 2015 at 6:52:02 PM EDT

To: Laura Allen <allen.laura@epa.gov>, Press

<press@epa.gov>, Melissa Harrison

<harrison.melissa@epa.gov>

Cc: "Elliott, Dan" <delliott@ap.org>, "Montoya, Susan"

<smontoya@ap.org>, "Daly, Matthew" <MDaly@ap.org>

Hi Laura, Melissa-

New Mexico Environment Sec. Ryan Flynn says in his prepared testimony (attached) for tomorrow's House hearing on Gold King spill that EPA officials would not share data on surface water samples, sediment sampling plan.

Can you please respond?

Is Mr Flynn's description of events accurate?

Why was data withheld?

Was only partial data released, as Mr. Flynn says?

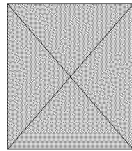
Here is part of the passage in his testimony that I'm referring to:

“EPA repeatedly refused to share data with New Mexico for weeks after the Spill. Some of the data EPA refused to provide included results from surface water samples taken upstream of New Mexico. And when they did share such information, it was summary level data, cherry-picked and presented to create the appearance that Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Levels were not crossed, post event, specifically for lead. EPA also refused to share its sediment sampling plan with New Mexico for over two weeks.”

We’re hoping to get a response in advance of tomorrow morning’s hearing. Please let me know.

Thanks for your time and help-

Matt Brown



Matthew Brown

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<9-17-2015 Joint Committee Hearing on EPA Animas Spill - Flynn-NM Testimo....pdf>